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Tax Commission files felony charges against Logan restaurant owner

Second degree felony charges have been filed against the owner of two Logan restaurants.

Justin Hamilton, 31, Logan, owner and operator of Café Sabor and Hamilton's Steak and Seafood, was charged with four counts of unlawful dealing of property by a fiduciary.

Utah State Tax Commission criminal investigators said Hamilton received several hundred thousand dollars in customers' sales taxes and withheld several thousand dollars in employees' payroll taxes but used these funds for illegal purposes.

Under Utah law, he was required to remit these trust funds to the State of Utah.

"Our criminal investigation unit diligently investigates the theft and fraud of taxpayer funds," said spokesman Charlie Roberts.

"These trust funds provide essential services to the citizens of Utah and the Tax Commission is committed to prevent perpetrators from unfairly profiting to the detriment of other business owners," Roberts added.

Charges were filed last week in 1st District Court. The case will be prosecuted by the Cache County Attorney's office.